

Capsule Summary  
SM-603  
Oakley Post Office and Store  
Oakley, Md  
Private

c. 1920s

The Oakley Post Office and Store, situated in Oakley, Maryland, was constructed in the 1920s. While erected relatively recently, the building symbolizes the important role that small commercial enterprises played in rural communities. Serving as a United States Post Office, Store, and Bar, the building represented an important, albeit informal meeting place for residents of this largely agricultural and maritime oriented area in St. Mary's County.

In order to accommodate the varying demands of the post office, store, and bar, the building featured three doors on its primary/roadside elevation--effectively segregating all of the various functions. This was especially important during the night-time hours when the bar was open. Because of the relative isolation of the building's location, bars were placed over the windows to prevent break-ins and illegal entries.

Historical research suggests that one or more buildings preceded the building of the present structure at either this or a neighboring location. Postal service was initiated in 1888 and continued until 1966 in Oakley. Some of the postmasters included John M. Dent, Ida E. Dent, Agnes P. Russell, Miss Ann G. Lacey, Mrs. Alma M. Ellis, and Miss Mary Elizabeth Farrell. Even before postal service was begun, on October 25, 1868 Dr. Joseph McWilliams mentioned in his diary that the Lancaster family owned and operated the "Trappe Store." One of two options in the deed search confirm that the Lancaster's owned the "Trappe Store" property until 1887 when John Marshall Dent, Sr. purchased the store and two acre lot. This older store was replaced and the site for the store moved to the present site in the 1920s. In the 1950s and 1960s the building was known as the Frank Ellis Store.

SM-603, Oakley Post Office and Store  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme:

Economic (Commercial)

Resource Type

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Rural Crossroads

Historic Function and Use:

Store, Bar, Post Office

Known Design Source:

None

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. SM-603

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Oakley Post Office and Store (pref)

and/or common Frank Ellis Store/"Trappe Store"

**2. Location**

street & number 21963 Oakley Road (nw side of Oakley Road) ☐ not for publication

city, town Oakley ☒ vicinity of congressional district 7

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-39, G-13, P-149

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Dr. William and Claire Mulford

street & number 80-B Oakley Road telephone no.: 301-769-3450

city, town Avenue state and zip code Maryland 20609

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 977

street & number folio 13

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-603

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 2

The Oakley Store is located on the north side of Maryland Route 470 (Oakley Rd.) approximately 0.2 miles south of the intersection of Burch Road and Route 470. The store is oriented on a north-south axis on a relatively flat parcel of land. It is bordered to the west by a one-and-a-half story bungalow, to the south by the road, and to the east and north by cultivated fields. The property also contains an early twentieth century elevated corn crib, a garage, as well as a small shed that once contained Delco batteries for supplying electricity to the store.

The Oakley Store is a one story, six bay, frame commercial building constructed in the 1920s. The walls rest on a brick pier foundation (later replaced with a concrete slab) and were originally sheathed with clapboard but this layer has since been covered over with a layer of asbestos shingling. At the intersection of the walls and the corrugated metal roof is an open cornice that reveals the ends of the rafters. While roof follows a rough L-shape with a long front section and small ell in the rear. The roof provides some indication of the building's development as it is a combination of two gable roofs placed perpendicular to one another as well as a shed roof addition. It is not clear which section was constructed first although much of the building was probably erected in the 1940s.

The primary or south elevation is pierced by an alternating series of windows and doors. All three windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash and all feature metal security bars for protection. Two of the doors feature four-panels and the easternmost door is constructed of a series of thin boards placed vertically. All of the bays except for the eastern door are shaded by a shed roof porch that is supported by seven, undecorated wood posts.

The west elevation consists of the gable end of the front section and the side of the rear ell. The gable end of the front section is pierced by two, six-over-six windows. Each window exhibits metal drip hoods or awnings over them. The side of the rear ell is pierced by a single six-over-six window with metal security bars over it.

The north elevation of the front section is pierced by two features two, six-over-six windows with security bars over them. The gable end of the rear ell is pierced by a six-over-six window with bars as well. The end of the eastern shed addition is pierced by a set of paired six-pane windows.

The east elevation consists of the side of the rear ell and the side of the east shed addition. The rear ell features a single entry with a batten door constructed of thin, reinforced, diagonally placed boards. The side of the east shed addition is pierced by two sets of two, six pane windows--each set protected with metal bars.

The interior of the structure has been gutted, but during a conversation with the current owners Claire and Dr. Bill Mulford, the building simultaneously housed a post office, store, as well as a bar with a pool room. Each of the three exterior doors on the south elevation corresponded to each function the building performed.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-603

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Oakley Post Office and Store, situated in Oakley, Maryland, was constructed c. 1920s. While erected relatively recently, the building symbolizes the important role that small commercial enterprises played in rural communities. Serving as a United States Post Office, Store, and Bar, the building was an important, albeit informal meeting place for residents of this largely agricultural and maritime oriented area in St. Mary's County.

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Historical research suggests that one or more buildings preceded the building of the present structure at either this or a neighboring location. Postal service was initiated in 1888 and continued until 1966 in Oakley. Some of the postmasters included John M. Dent, Ida E. Dent, Agnes P. Russell, Miss Ann G. Lacey, Mrs. Alma M. Ellis, and Miss Mary Elizabeth Farrell. Even before postal service was begun, on October 25, 1868 Dr. Joseph McWilliams mentioned in his diary that the Lancaster family owned and operated the "Trappe Store." One of two options in the deed search confirm that the Lancaster's owned a "Trappe Store" property until 1887 when John Marshall Dent, Sr. purchased the store and two acre lot. This older store was presumably replaced and the site for the store moved to the present site in the 1920s. In the 1950s and 1960s the building was known as the Frank Ellis Store. In 1966, the post office was closed and mail service was moved to Avenue. The store and bar closed soon after.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-603

"Diaries of John F. Dent, 1853-1898," trans. by Edwin W. Beitzell, St. Mary's Chronicles,  
"Diary of Dr. Joseph L. McWilliams, 1868-1875," trans. by Edwin W. Beitzell, St. Mary's  
Chronicles, March 1975, Vol. 23: No. 3.  
Regina C. Hammett, History of St. Mary's County, Maryland 1634-1990 (Ridge, Md: n.p.  
1991), p. 179.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre (around store)Quadrangle name Leonardtown, MdQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Dept. of Planning & Zoning date January 8, 1998street & number 22740 Washington Street telephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtown state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by  
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated  
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and  
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of  
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

SM-603, Oakley Post Office and Store  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber EWA 977, Folio 13

Grantee: William C. and Clair B. Mulford

Grantor: Theodore G. and Barbara S. Miller

Date: June 16, 1995

Notes: The property is called "part of Barton Hall" or part of "St. Clement's Manor" or the "Mill Lot."

Reference: Liber EWA 491, Folio 104

Grantee: Theodore G. and Barbara S. Miller

Grantor: Allen W. and Grace Mary Stabler

Date: August 24, 1989

Notes: The property was surveyed by Littler Silences Rest, Inc. May 21, 1995 and listed as containing 23.06 acres.

Reference: Liber DBK 193, Folio 32

Grantee: Allen W. and Grace Mary Stabler

Grantor: Grace Mary (Ellis) Stabler -- personal representative of Frank Ellis

Date: June 23, 1973

Notes: The property is listed as containing 19 acres. The deed also notes that further title references can be found in the estate of Frank Ellis (Estate # 1773). Frank Ellis died on October 29, 1972 and Alma C. Ellis died on August 21, 1965. Here the property is listed as containing 19 acres.

Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 87

Grantee: Frank and Alma C. Ellis

Grantor: J. Marshall Dent, Jr. and Mary T. Dent, wife

Date: August 25, 1932

Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 309

Grantee: J. Marshall Dent, Jr. and Mary T. Dent, wife

Grantor: Elliot E. Dent and Eleanor F. Dent

Date: February 28, 1929

Notes: The deed mentions that the property contains the Oakley Store.

Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 253

Grantee: Elliot E. Dent

Grantor: Philip H. Dorsey

Date: December 1, 1928

Reference: Liber JMM6, Folio 254

Grantee: Philip H. Dorsey

Grantor: Elliot E. Dent

Date: December 1, 1928

SM-603, Oakley Post Office and Store  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber EBA 18, Folio 462  
Grantee: Elliot E. and Eleanor F. Dent  
Grantor: Ida E. and J. Marshall Dent  
Date: November 27, 1919  
Notes: No previous deed is listed.

Chain-of-Title Option #2

Reference: Liber CBG 17, Folio 420  
Grantee: Frances Katherine Dent and Ida Louise Dent  
Grantor: Mary R. Fowler  
Date: September 29, 1945  
Reference: This deed notes that the property called the "Trappe Store Lot" or "Oakley" contains 2 acres.

Reference: Liber CBG 17, Folio 419  
Grantee: Mary R. Fowler  
Grantor: Frances Katherine Dent and Ida Louise Dent  
Date: September 29, 1945

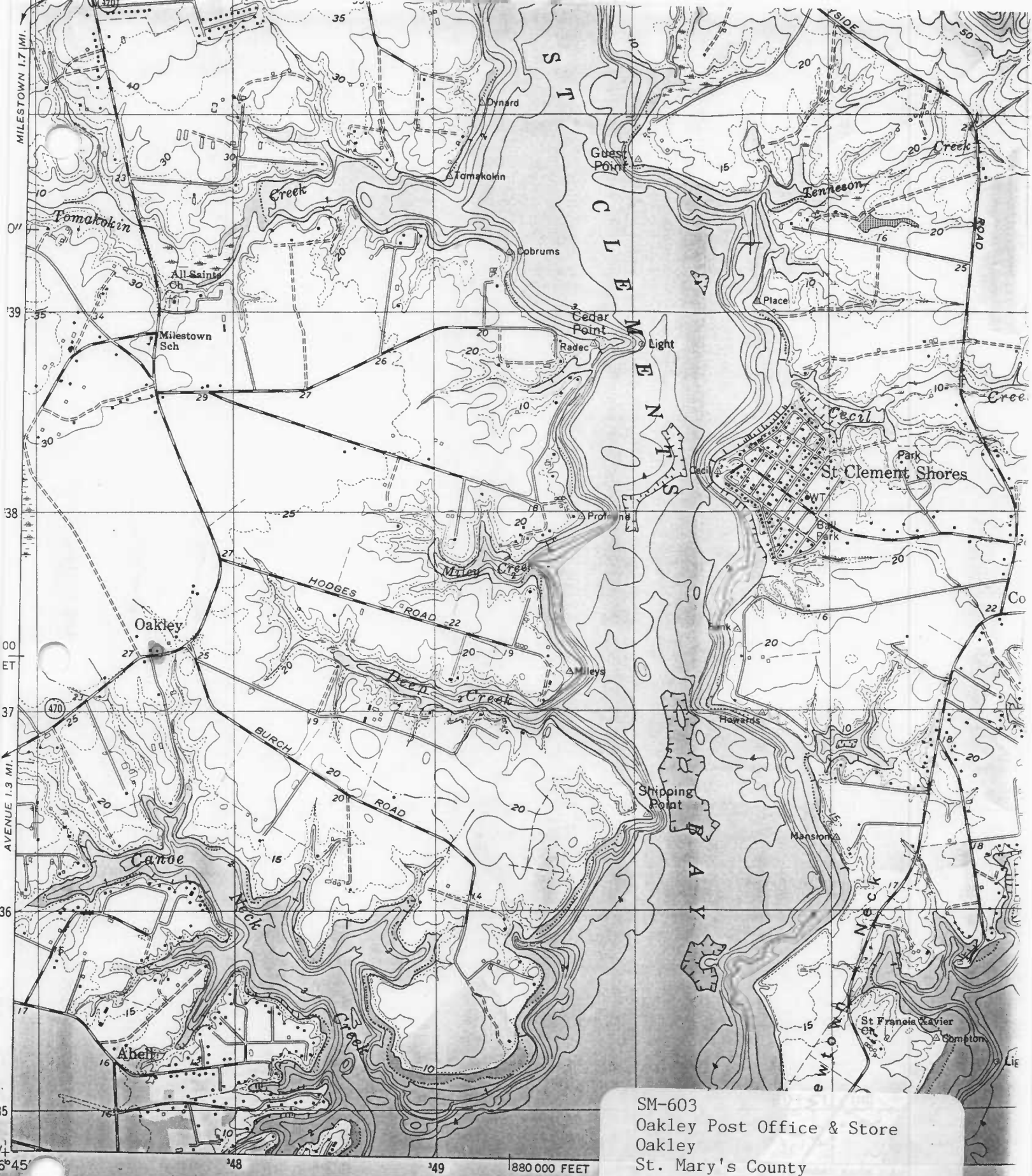
Reference: Liber JMM 3, Folio 161  
Grantee: Frances Katherine Dent and Ida Louise Dent  
Grantor: J. Marshall Dent, Sr.  
Date: June 11, 1925

Reference: Liber JFF 10, Folio 140  
Grantee: John Marshall Dent, Sr.  
Grantor: George D. and Lucy V. Lancaster  
Date: September 10, 1887

Reference: St. Mary's County, Register of Wills, Will Record Liber JTMR 1, Folio 437  
Grantee: George D. and Lucy V. Lancaster  
Grantor: Priscilla H. Lancaster  
Reference: The Trappe Store Lot is devised to George D. and Lucy V. Lancaster by Priscilla H. Lancaster. Priscilla had inherited it from John L. Lancaster.

Reference: Liber JAC 4, Folio 60  
Grantee: John L. Lancaster  
Grantor: Richard P. Blackistone  
Date: October 17, 1868  
Reference: The deed notes the transfer of the property for \$ 2,100. The deed also refers to a Circuit Court case that was in favor of John L. Lancaster who was a guardian to Agnes Lancaster, Raymond Clarence Lancaster, and Bernard Richmond Lancaster.





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 and the National Ocean Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken  
 1961. Field checked 1963

Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Survey from tide-coordinated  
 hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational  
 purposes

Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line

NATIONAL OCEAN  
 HYDROGRAPHIC

CO  
 DASHED L  
 NATIONAL  
 BATHYMETRIC COM



CM-100

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Nov. 1997

Vol. 1000

St. Mary's County

1 of 2



SM-172

St. Mary's County

Kirk Lanzetta

Nov., 1997

Md. CHPO

N + W elevation

2 of 2